

Testimony on HB 5004

Office of Early Childhood Budget

Dear Senator Bye, Representative Walker, Members of the Committee:

My name is Colleen Hartnett. I am a teacher at the Childcare Learning Center, Inc in Stamford, CT.

I strongly believe the state funded programs need to continue to be funded.

If the Childcare Learning Centers did not get funded and had to close the families enrolled would suffer great economic hardship along with me and my co-workers. I am mandated to have a Bachelor's degree yet I would be forced to rely on public housing, food stamps and all other state programs just to survive.

Childcare Learning Centers and other state funded programs are high quality, NAEYC accredited programs. We follow strict guidelines from the Office of Early Childhood. We have a rigorous curriculum to make sure our children are ready for kindergarten. Our programs allow families to pursue continued education and full time employment; many of which are single parent homes. What happens to these families if programs like CLC close? What kind of financial burden would Stamford and the state of Connecticut face when these families no longer have employment or better themselves with continued education?

Please be sure to keep the funding intact for all state funded programs offering care and education to our young children so that they are ready for lifetime learning and their families can continue to be contributing members of Stamford and Connecticut instead of a financial drain.

Thank-you in advance for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,
Colleen Hartnett